

REMARKS

Applicants have thoroughly considered the Office action mailed on February 9, 2007. Claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 19-23 have been canceled and claim 10 has been amended by this Amendment F. Thus, claims 10-16 and 18 are presented in the application for further examination. Reconsideration of the application claims as amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-16, and 18-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for being indefinite. With respect to claim 10, the claim has been amended to recite "a video switching stream behavior." Claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 19-23 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 9-16, and 18-23 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 19-23 have been canceled, thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandvoss et al U.S. Pat. No. 5,745,380 (Sandvoss) in view of Hayes-Roth U.S. Pat. No. 6,031,549 (Hayes-Roth).

Sandvoss discloses teleconferencing where the multimedia streams with the highest priority level streams are actively transmitted. In particular, Sandvoss et al. teaches that the weight used to determine priority is calculated from substream signals that are input to a process. (column 3, lines 53-58)

Hayes-Roth discloses a method for directing the behavior of an improvisational character. (column 6, line 28) Hayes-Roth defines an improvisational character as "any computer-controlled entity which is embodied in a computer-controllable medium such as computer graphics, animation, robotics, virtual reality, audio, video, film, or text." (column 6, lines 29-34) Additionally, Hayes-Roth teaches that character's activity state is

updated whenever the character is directed "to execute a behavior and whenever it receives a perception message packet from the animator indicating that the other character has executed a behavior." (column 14, lines 34-39) One column of the activity state table contains a corresponding weight for weighting the desirability value of a behavior. (FIG. 37, column 19, lines 8-11)

In contrast, claim 10 recites:

a plurality of participants each providing multimedia conferencing data including video signals and audio signals;
 a client in conference with the participants, the client capable of receiving a video stream corresponding to one of the participants at a time;
a participant selection control parameter stored in a memory for tuning a video switching stream behavior;
 a participant state table stored in a memory and indicating an activity state variable for each participant, **said activity state variable including values and statistics associated with the participant's video signals and audio signals, said activity state variable being updated according to changes in the data information and the control information of the video signals and audio signals;** and
 a bridge server connected to the participants through a network and having a point-to-point connection with the client, the bridge server receiving simultaneously the multimedia conferencing data including a video stream from each of the participants, updating the activity state variable stored in the memory for each participant in the participant state table, periodically **computing a weight of said each participant based on the activity state variable of said each participant and the participant selection control parameter**, identifying a participant having a highest weight among the participants, and selecting from the received multimedia conferencing data a video stream corresponding to the identified participant having the highest weight for transmission to the client for viewing.

On pages 17-19 of the specification, **participant selection control parameters are defined to affect the outcome of the weight computation**. (Specification, pages 17-19, Table 1) For example, that **the values of the control parameters (shown in Table 1) can be tailored (or tuned)** to obtain desired video stream switching behavior. (Specification, page 17, lines 3-6; page 18, Table 1; and page 19, lines 4-6) Additionally, **the participant selection control parameters can be set for each conference to suit the nature or format of the network conference**. (Specification, page 19, lines 6-8)

And, the **values of the participant selection control parameters may be specified when the conference is set up.** (Specification, page 19, lines 8-9)

For example, the participant selection control parameters Minimum Shown Time and Minimum Shown Time If Active help to prevent a flurry of abrupt jumps from one participant to another. (Specification, page 21 lines 12-14) If these parameters are not used and the switching is based only on which participant happens to be making the loudest sound, then the screen image may be switched back and forth too quickly and too frequently between the talking participants, resulting in an unpleasant client experience. (Specification, page 21, lines 14-19) In another example, the participant selection control parameter Active Cycle Time functions roughly as an upper limit of how long a participant who is continuously talking should be continuously shown. (Specification, page 21, lines 23-26)

Sandvoss and Hayes-Roth, either taken separately or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention as these references fail to teach various aspects of the invention. For example, neither Sandvoss nor Hayes-Roth teach or disclose **a participant selection control parameter stored in a memory for tuning a video switching stream behavior and periodically computing a weight of said each participant based on the activity state variable of said each participant and the participant selection control parameter** as recited in claim 10.

Thus, claim 10 is patentable over Sandvoss in view of Hayes-Roth and should be allowed. Furthermore, claims 11-16 and 18 depend from claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claim 10 is allowable over the cited art. The claims depending from this claim are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend.

It is felt that a full and complete response has been made to the Office action and, as such, places the application in condition for allowance. Such allowance is hereby respectfully requested. Although the prior art made of record and not relied upon may be considered pertinent to the disclosure, none of these references anticipates or makes obvious the recited invention. The fact that Applicants may not have specifically

traversed any particular assertion by the Office should not be construed as indicating Applicants' agreement therewith.

Applicants wish to expedite prosecution of this application. If the Examiner deems the application to not be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss making an Examiner's amendment to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or overpayment of any required fee during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

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